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**Economic and environmental questions:
sustainable development**

Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session: future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development*

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedures of the Economic and Social Council

I. RELEVANT REQUESTS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION

1. Under the terms of paragraphs 2, 11, 15, and 20 through 24 of draft resolution I recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development and contained in the report on its eleventh session,[1] the Council would:

(a) Decide that, in order to fulfil its mandate, the work of the Commission will be organized as a series of two-year action-oriented "implementation cycles", which will include a "review session" and a "policy session";

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* The present programme budget implications statement is submitted in line with the statement contained in paragraph 4 of annex III (programme budget implications of draft resolution I) of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session (E/2003/29).

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(b) Emphasize that in order to enable the Commission to perform the relevant requirements provided for in chapter 11 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular its paragraphs 145, 147 and 148, an effective system of reporting is essential for reviewing, evaluating and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, as well as identifying actions taken, opportunities for and obstacles and constraints to implementation;

(c) Request the secretariat of the Commission, working in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, to:

(i) Provide focused information that highlights relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues;

(ii) Provide technical assistance to countries, upon their request, in national reporting through regular and extrabudgetary sources;

(d) Decide that contributions to the Commission from major groups, including the scientific community and educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while following the established rules of procedure and practices of the Commission, should be further enhanced, taking into account chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(e) Recall that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development and reiterate that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, those commitments;

(f) Stress that partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines; taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on

partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali guiding principles, and General Assembly resolution 56/76 of 11 December 2001:

(i) Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders, e.g. major groups and institutional stakeholders;

(ii) Partnerships should contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should not divert from commitments contained in those agreements;

(iii) Partnerships are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(iv) Partnerships should add concrete value addition to the implementation process and should be new, that is, they should not merely reflect existing arrangements;

(v) Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;

(vi) Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, include mobilizing new resources and, where relevant, result in transfer of technology to, and capacity building in, developing countries;

(vii) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;

(viii) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In that regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;

(ix) Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(x) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws, national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;

(xi) The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country/countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments;

(xii) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to the intergovernmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes;

(g) Decide that providing information and reporting by partnerships registered with the Commission should be transparent, participatory and credible taking into account the following elements:

(i) The registration of partnerships should be voluntary and be based on written reporting to the Commission, taking into account the provisions above. Reporting by partnerships should focus on their contribution to the implementation of goals, objectives and targets of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(ii) Partnerships should submit a regular report, preferably at least on a biennial basis;

(iii) The Secretariat is requested to make information available on partnerships, including their reports, through a database accessible to all interested parties, including through the Commission web site and other means;

(iv) The Secretariat is requested to produce a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships for consideration by the Commission, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in the review year;

(v) The Commission, during the review year, should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards supporting implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practice, to identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during the policy year as necessary;

(h) Call for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through initiatives such as partnerships fairs and learning centres, mindful of the importance of sharing information on existing activities particularly across the United Nations system.

II. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED REQUESTS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2002-2005, THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003 AND THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005

2. The activities to be carried out relate to subprogramme 4, Sustainable development of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,

and section 9, Economic and social affairs, of both the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

III. ACTIVITIES BY WHICH THE PROPOSED REQUESTS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT

3. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, would be modified as follows:

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005[a]

Paragraph No.	Action	Outputs
9.86 (a) (iv) a.	Add	Regional meetings in collaboration with regional commissions (5); Intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the thirteenth meeting of the Commission (2005)
	Delete	Meetings of the intersessional subsidiary bodies (20)
9.86 (a) (iv) b.	Delete	Comprehensive report on monitoring implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (1)
9.86 (a) (iv) b.	Add	State of implementation reports (4); report on partnerships (2) and report on improving national reporting (2); reports on issues identified by the Commission's work programme for 2005 (policy session)
9.86 (b) (vi) New	Add	Case studies, lessons learned and best practices in implementation with a focus on water, sanitation and human settlements (12); organization of capacity-building activities during the sessions of the Commission, including learning centres and partnership fairs (4); outreach for consultation purposes to nine major groups, including with scientific experts and educators

[a] A/58/6 (Sect. 9).

4. The new outputs to be carried out in the biennium 2004-2005 would require $235,900 for two additional posts (one P-5 and one P-3) and $125,500 for non-post resources, for the purposes described in the table below:

Additional requirements
Section 9: Economic and social affairs **Post requirements** One P-5 post as from 1 January 2004, to coordinate, manage and assist the Commission in establishing and maintaining a transparent system on partnerships. The post would entail planning and coordinating work on partnerships, in order to nurture, review and report, as well as facilitating sharing of information, establishing and maintaining a dynamic, interactive and user-friendly database on partnerships and responding to a range of innovative challenges One P-3 post, as from 1 January 2005, to carry out review and analysis of concrete progress in implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, identifying constraints and challenges as well as opportunities, lessons learned, case studies and identifying gaps as well as providing quality inputs to the Commission, in addition to coordination, analysis, evaluation and synthesizing of the vast amount of information received from various sources, and coordination of capacity-building activities during meetings of the Commission **Experts/consultants** Specialized expertise not available within the secretariat, to assist in providing expert advice, in preparation for the sessions of the Commission and for the following services: (a) in-depth analysis of a range of issues to be taken up by the Commission; (b) a high quality comparative analysis on progress achieved in implementation of goals and targets set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including distilling cross-cutting issues into action-oriented recommendations; and (c) to facilitate action-oriented dialogues with stakeholders **General operating expenses** Requirements for rental of office equipment, LAN, telephone and facsimile services, optical disk connections and acquisition of office automation and equipment maintenance **Section 29D, Office of the Central Support Services** Requirements for non-recurrent costs related to office alterations/improvements and acquisition of furniture, as well as recurrent costs for rental of premises

5. The P-5 post would be required as from 1 January 2004, so as to put in place, as soon as possible, the coordination, management and direction of work on partnerships. The P-3 post would be required as from 1 January 2005, as interim measures will be utilized through the end of 2004 to carry out the new and additional functions for which the P-3 post is required.

6. Additional specialized expertise and expert advice, including for the organization of dialogue sessions required by the Commission during its policy sessions in 2004-2005 would need to be provided by consultants/experts with specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat.

7. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 includes a provision of $555,300 for the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its ad hoc intersessional working groups. The adoption of the draft resolution would imply that the working groups would be discontinued. It is proposed to meet the resource requirements for 2004-2005, estimated at $361,400, through the use of part of the provisions projected to be used for the working groups.

IV. CONCLUSION

8. **Should the Council adopt the draft resolution contained in the report of the Commission on its eleventh session,[1] it would not entail any additional resources over and above those already approved for the biennium 2002-2003 and those contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, which will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.A.